

John F. O'Connor, et al.  
U.S. Serial No.: Not Yet Known  
(Continuation of PCT/US99/02289,  
filed 3 February 1999)  
Filed: Herewith  
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States of America pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §363, and the subject continuation application is co-pending therewith in fulfillment of the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §120.

By this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have hereinabove amended the specification on page 1 to insert the continuation data. Applicants maintain that the amendments to the specification present no issue of new matter and are fully supported by the specification. Applicants have amended the specification to recite the continuing data for the above-identified application.

Claims 1-57 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment applicants have canceled claims 4-5, 7, 9-13, 16-17, 19, 22-26, 29-30, 32-33, 35-37, 40-41, 45, 47-48, 50, 52, 54-55, and 57 without prejudice or disclaimer to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application. Applicants have hereinabove amended claims 34, 43, and 56. Support for these amendments may be found inter alia on page 5, lines 13-19, page 11, lines 21-24, and page 12, lines 5-11. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-3, 6, 8, 14-15, 18, 20-21, 27-28, 31, 34, 38-39, 42-44, 46, 49, 51, 53, and 56 will be pending and under examination.

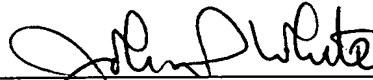
If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided below.

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No fee other than the filing fee of \$1230.00 is deemed necessary in connection with this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any other fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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